

Abstract

Method and apparatus for sorting items of mail

The invention relates to sorting items of mail in a plurality of sorting passes. In order not to have to read the address in each sorting pass and also not to have to print any machine-readable identification code on each item of mail, features characteristic of the items of mail are additionally determined during the first sorting pass and are stored together with distribution codes determined in the reading process. During the subsequent sorting passes only the characteristic features of the items of mail are measured and compared with the stored features. In the event of agreement, the item of mail is assigned the associated distribution code. A particular feed regime with defined orders ensures that in each case only n items of mail have to be compared, where n = maximum multiple delivery rate to be expected.

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